

## PART 500 - INTRODUCTION

### SUBCHAPTER A - GENERAL

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### 500.00 General

(a) The purpose of this manual is to present engineering policy clearly and completely so that engineering activities can be carried out efficiently.

(b) These policies are provided for the purpose of establishing and maintaining technical excellence in engineering which results from the knowledge of engineering principles, the ability to apply the knowledge effectively, and to coordinate an interdisciplinary team approach to the engineering activity.

### 500.01 Scope.

(a) It is NRCS policy to maintain a viable engineering staff, trained and experienced in the type of work needed to support the NRCS natural resources conservation program. NRCS recognizes that there will be situations for which sufficient staff or expertise is not available. Under these conditions, contracting is an alternative for expediting engineering activities. As such, all engineering work performed by or for NRCS is to be in conformance with the requirements stated in this manual.

(b) The policies stated in this manual apply to engineering work performed for others under cooperative working agreements, in memoranda of understanding, or under any other agreement entered into by NRCS.

### 500.02 Abbreviations.

The following abbreviations are used:

NEM - National Engineering Manual

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NEH - National Engineering Handbook

NHCP - National Handbook of Conservation Practices.

RO - Regional Office

CED - Conservation Engineering Division

NRCS - Natural Resources Conservation Service

USDA - United States Department of Agriculture